

# Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Washington, D.C.



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April 29, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 04-233

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Charities generally rely on local stations to help tell their story. Talk Radio 3WT especially has been an important partner to RMHC® and others in the community. That's why I feel it is important to share our concerns about the proposed new rules that would regulate the nature of local programming.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)®** of Greater Washington DC directly improves the health and well being of children in many ways including supporting **Ronald McDonald House®**, **Ronald McDonald Family Room™** at Children's National Medical Center, and **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile™** in partnership with Georgetown University Hospital that provides on-the-spot medical care for the neediest children. **Ronald McDonald Houses** provide a 'home-away-from-home' for families of seriously ill children being treated at local hospitals. Each year more than 650 families stay at our two Houses, including many from the military.

RMHC families have long benefited from 3WT Radio's unstinting support and help in raising funds and visibility. Not only has 3WT Radio encouraged others to "give" to RMHC, they have been generous in their own corporate giving. Whenever we call with a request to help us tell our story, promote events, or raise funds – they help willingly and often. When they hosted our Radio Request-a-Thon, we raised a substantial amount to help our families. Of tremendous import for us is the fact that the station regularly airs PSAs concerning issues of importance to RMHC and its mission, including promoting our need for volunteers, promoting our events like the most recent Kaps for Kids Walk-a-Thon, and letting their audience know what our needs are so they too can help us.

Our charity serves a diverse local community. Without the generous help we receive from Talk Radio 3WT and other local TV and radio stations, we would not be able to carryout our mission as successfully. Thus, we are concerned that the proposed new rules on local programming may cause a chilling effect that may harm a locally –developed process that works well today. Thank you for letting me share our story and our concern about the proposed new rules on local programming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Wargo,  
Executive Director

*"Provide for a future gift to Ronald McDonald House by including a bequest in your will."*  
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